इसके अतिरिक्त, केन्द्र सरकार ने कर्नाटक और केरल सरकार को बंगलौर के निकट देवनहल्ली पर तथा कोचीन के निकट नेदुम्बेसरी में निजी भागीदारी से हवाई अड्डों के निर्माण के लिए अपनी "अनापत्ति" दे दी है।

Estimates of Smuggled Gold

938. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether estimates are avialable of the value of gold smuggled in the country during the fiscal years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 so far;

(b) the estimated value of gold declared as import in the above years; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to review the policy of free import of gold on the stipulation that no foreign exchange will be released for such imports?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):
(a) Smuggling being a clandestine activity it is not possible to estimate the value of gold smuggled in the country during the fiscal years 1994-95, 1995-96 & 1996-97. However value of gold seized while attempted to be smuggled into the country during the same period is as follows:—

Year	Gold Seized (Rs. in lakhs)
1994-95 1995-96	5543
1996-97 (till 30.6.96	5087
(Prov.)	936

(b) The estimmed value gold imported on payment of Customs duty by eligible passengers in baggage and under Special Import License yearwise is as follows:

Year	Value of Import (Rs. in crores)
1994-95	9874.88
1995-96	13102.37
1996-97	4065.90

(c) : No such proposal is under consod-eration by the Government at present.

Signing of wage pact with engineers by Indian Airlines

939. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has recently signed a wage pact with its engineers;

(b) if so, what are the terms of the pact; and

(c) how the wages, including perks, available to engineers in Indian Airlines compare with those in the private airlines operating in India, keeping in view their respective productivity?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has signed a Productivity Linked Incentive Settlement with the All India Aircraft Engineers Association on 22.5.96 which, inter alia, includes payments to engineers based on higher annual utilisation of aircraft and better "On Time" performance.

(c) Information pertaining to wages and perks paid to the employees in the private airlines and their productivity, is not maintained by Government.

मंदसौर, मध्य प्रदेश में अल्प — वयस्क बालकों एवं मजदूरों में खतरनाक रोगों का पाया जाना

940. श्री सोमपाल: क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार 11 मार्च, 1995 के इण्डियन एक्सप्रेस में प्रकाशित उस समाचार से अवगत है जिसमें मध्य प्रदेश के मंदसौर जिले की प्लेट पत्थर खानों में

कार्यरत अल्प वयस्क बालकों और मजदूरों में सिलिकोसिस जैसी खतरनाक बीमारियों के पाए जाने की बात कही गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस समस्या के समाधान हेतु अब तक कोई कदम उठाया है;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(घ) क्या सरकार इन खानों में काम कर रहे बच्चों को मुक्त कराने के लिए कारगर कदम उठा रही है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(च) वहां काम कर रहे सभी श्रमिकों की चिकित्सकीय जांच और रोग निदान हेतु सरकार द्वारा क्या प्रबन्ध किए गए हैं?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सलीम इकबाल शेरवानी): (क) से (च) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Request by Financial Institutions for Relaxation of Lending

941. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to obviating the cash-crunch in the market, the financial institutions (FIs) have requested Government for relaxation of lending norms;

(b) if so, what specific difficulties were enumerated to Government by the FIs; -and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):

(a) No, Sir. The lending norms are decided by the financial institutions on their own without reference to Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Applications Pending with Settlement Commission

942. SHRI GOPAL SINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) particulars of applications (year-wise and bench-wise) lying pending in principl bench and other benches of Settlement Commission (Income tax & wealth tax), alongwith the date of filing of applications and amount of tax admitted in each case and circumstances under which these specific applications were neither admitted nor rejected while other applications filed even later than these were admitted and settled; and

(b) the reasons that supervisory/controlling Ministry had not kept any check/
control on the activities of this commissioninsipite of adverse remarks in the report of the Tax Reforms Committee headed by Shri C. Raja Chellaiah?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):

(a) The particulars of pendency of applications for admission and admitted cases pending (year-wise) are submitted in the statement 'A' and 'B', enclosed *(see* below). The time which will be spent in collecting the information in each case will not be commensurate with the purpose for which the Question has been asked. Ordinarily settlement applications are taken up for admission in chronological order. However, in exceptional circumstances applications are taken up for admission out of turn. Such circumstances include cases or group of cases where additional tax offered is more than Rs. 10 lakhs, grouping of cases for consolidated and coordinated disposal of entire group of cases, cases where admission hearing is not necessary and cases where the reports of the Commissioner of Income-tax have been received even though filed later than other cases.